



305 Main Street, Kensington

1901

Peck Memorial Library 1901-October 2, 1989

Berlin Historical Society Museum 1993

Historic Buildings of Connecticut

The building at 305 Main Street, at the corner of Peck Street, in Kensington, Berlin is currently home to the Berlin Historical Society. It was built in 1901-1902 as the permanent home of the Kensington Library Society. Founded in 1829, the Library Society had stored its books at various places around town before the building was constructed: first at the Kensington Congregational Church; from 1874 to 1877 at Hart's Hall; next in a room in the Berlin Savings Bank; and in 1890 back at the church. In 1900, Susan A. Peck was a leader among those seeking to build a permanent home for the library. She convinced her cousin, Henry Hart Peck, to donate the funds for a new building, which was built on land donated by Miss Harriet Hotchkiss and Mrs. Fannie Hotchkiss Jones. The Library Society was incorporated in 1901 in order to receive the donation. The Peck Memorial Library building was dedicated on November 5, 1902. A modern addition to the library was built in 1963. In 1986 the Town of Berlin took over the library, thus making it a public institution. In 1989, the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library moved into a new building at 234 Kensington Road. In 1993 The former building on Main Street then became the home of the Berlin Historical Society. The building was renamed the King-Peck Memorial in 1994 to honor Ron King, who was active in various civic groups in Berlin.

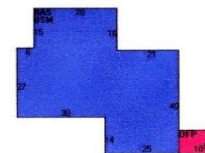


1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 132

1901 Peck Memorial Library under Peck Street

Sketch

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.



HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
 HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
 (203) 566-3005

#132

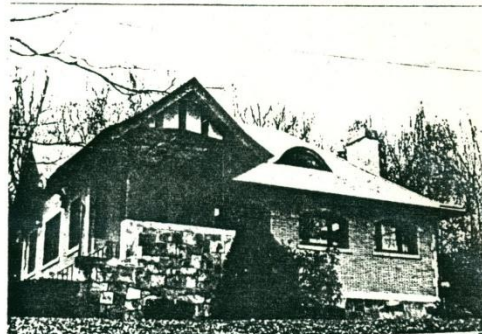
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Town No.:	Site No.:
UTM	
QUAD:	
DISTRICT	IF NR. SPECIFY
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)		(Historic)	
Peck Memorial Library			
2. TOWN CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY	
Berlin	Kensington	Hartford	
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		9-1/46/5	
Corner Peck Street and Main Street			
4. OWNER(S)		The Peck Library	
Kensington Library Society		Kensington, CT 06037	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	
5. USE (Present)		(Historic)	
Library		Library	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Public library	
7. STYLE OF BUILDING		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	
Craftsman		1901	
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) cast stone
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: random ashlar foundation	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			
10. ROOF (Type)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
(Material)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate <input type="checkbox"/> Gable end to the street
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES			
1 1/2			
12. CONDITION (structural)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	WHEN?	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) on knoll
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Indus-trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			
On western edge of Kensington, near Kensington grammar school.			

DESCRIPTION (Continued)	17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)										
	<p>The Peck Memorial Library has a raised fieldstone basement, a cast-stone water table, and walls of tan-glazed brick laid up in Flemish bond. The four-bay facade has a left entry with a cast-stone surround under a half-timbered, pedimented entry shelter on beveled wooden posts. This shelter features exposed purlins with diamond-cut ends, and a scalloped face rafter. Entry steps are finished in fieldstone; the very heavy wooden entry door has bullseye panes over panels. First-floor windows are segmental-arched with cast-stone sills, key-blocks, and impost blocks. They are fitted with fixed side panes and central casements. Cast-stone quoins are found at the corners of the facade. The roof has wide eaves overhanging exposed scalloped rafters; two eyebrow dormers are centered on the front of the hip. At the right is a tan-brick chimney which cuts through the (continued)</p>										
SIGNIFICANCE	18 ARCHITECT	BUILDER									
	19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE										
<p>The Peck Library Association was founded in 1829. Henry H. Peck of Waterbury, merchant banker and legislator, provided the original endowment in memory of his parents, who were born in Berlin. The site of the present library was donated by the Hotchkiss family and the building was erected in 1901. The Peck Library is significant both as a longtime cultural institution in Berlin and as a well-preserved and unusually attractive Craftsman-style building. Its design draws from several contemporary styles: the quoins of the Classical Revival, the half-timbering of the Tudor Revival, and the eyebrow dormers usually associated with the Shingle style. The building blends these diverse references into a coherent expression of the Craftsman style, characterized by the picturesque details and variety of materials. The wide overhanging eaves are also a typical Craftsman feature. The modern rear addition is carefully designed and does not detract in any major way from the appeal of this building.</p>											
SOURCES	<p>Burpee, p. 1174. Photo Collection, Peck Memorial Library.</p>										
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="293 1220 318 1293" rowspan="2">PHOTO</td> <td data-bbox="326 1209 691 1251"> PHOTOGRAPHER HRC </td> <td data-bbox="699 1209 805 1251"> DATE 11/84 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="326 1251 505 1293"> VIEW NW </td> <td data-bbox="513 1251 805 1293"> NEGATIVE ON FILE E4 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="293 1314 318 1440" rowspan="2">COMPILED BY</td> <td data-bbox="326 1293 691 1335"> NAME Historic Resource Consultants </td> <td data-bbox="699 1293 805 1335"> DATE 12/84 </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="326 1335 805 1440"> ORGANIZATION The Colt Armory 55 Van Dyke Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06106 </td> </tr> </table>		PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER HRC	DATE 11/84	VIEW NW	NEGATIVE ON FILE E4	COMPILED BY	NAME Historic Resource Consultants	DATE 12/84	ORGANIZATION The Colt Armory 55 Van Dyke Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06106
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20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS											



Peck Memorial Library

17. (continued):

eaves; on the left elevation is a wall dormer designed to match the entry shelter. Side windows are flat-arched. At the rear is a modern brick addition. With the exception of a drop ceiling, the interior of the building is largely original, with extensive use of wood paneling.

